

## **LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ISSUES STATEMENT ON COSCO BUSAN OIL SPILL CRIMINAL CHARGES**

*As Member of the State Lands Commission, Garamendi says California must*

*□ “move swiftly to recover damages” from oil spill*

SACRAMENTO - Lt. Governor John Garamendi, a member of the California State Lands Commission, issued the following statement today following today's news that the pilot of the cargo ship Cosco Busan will face criminal negligence charges in federal court for violating environmental protection laws.

“There are now confirmed allegations of criminal negligence in the case of the Cosco Busan, which spilled thousands of gallons of toxic fuel into the San Francisco Bay. This already devastating incident is made worse by the notion that the death of thousands of birds and the soiling of Bay Area beaches may have resulted from negligent behavior. With a federal criminal case underway, it is all the more imperative that California moves swiftly to recover damages to our coastline and wildlife, and to signal that protecting California's environment and people is a top priority.”

In December 2007, Garamendi directed State Lands Commission staff to pursue any options, including legal remedies, to mitigate the vast area of state lands despoiled by the Cosco Busan oil spill.

At its March 4th meeting, the State Lands Commission voted unanimously to join federal and other state agencies in a process authorized by federal law called a Natural Resource Damage Assessment. This will determine the full extent of damage to environmental and other public resources and obtain payment from the ship's owner for complete mitigation, by litigation if necessary.

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Contact: Mike Roth

916-445-8994